

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0427

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JULY 21 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

THE 145TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, THE LAST OF THE TWELFTH ROUND, WAS HELD ON JULY 21 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF US REP (RESOR). SOVIET REP (TARASOV), WHOSE PRESENTATION IS REPORTED BY SEPTTEL, AND US REP DELIVERED THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENTS. IN HIS PRESENTATION, US REP REVIEWED THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, STRESSING IN PARTICULAR THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A REDUCTION AGREEMENT DEPENDED UPON A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION TO THE DATA DISCUSSION. US REP ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE MAJOR DEFECTS OF THE EASTERN POSITION AND CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR A POSITIVE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE WEST'S DECEMBER 1975 PROPOSALS. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE US STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT
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OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. AS EVIDENCED BY THE CONTINUATION OF THE DATA DISCUSSION, BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY RECOGNIZE THAT AGREEMENT ON DATA IS A PREREQUISITE FOR A REDUCTION AGREEMENT.

2. BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREE THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT PHASE

OF THE DATA DISCUSSION IS TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF THE LARGE, STILL UNEXPLAINED DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES ON EASTERN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA.

3. IN CONTRAST TO PRESENT EASTERN CLAIMS THAT THERE IS APPROXIMATE EQUALITY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA, EARLIER EASTERN ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS INDICATED EASTERN RECOGNITION OF A SIZEABLE DISPARITY FAVORING THE EAST.

4. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE RECENTLY PROPOSED AN EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR CLARIFYING THE SOURCES OF THE DATA DISCREPANCY AND HOPE THAT THE DATA DISCUSSION WILL MOVE FORWARD ON THIS BASIS IN THE NEXT ROUND.

5. THE EAST HAS NOT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE WEST'S REALISTIC AND EQUITABLE PROPOSALS FOR COLLECTIVE MANPOWER CEILINGS WITH SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS ON US AND SOVIET PERSONNEL IN THE AREA.

6. THE EAST HAS SHOWN NO WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AN OUTCOME OF GENUINE PARITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER BUT CONTINUES, INSTEAD, TO INSIST ON EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS.

7. THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE THE EAST'S SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER, IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST.

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8. THE WEST'S SELECTIVE APPROACH TO ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS WOULD AVOID BOTH THE UNMANAGEABLE COMPLEXITY AND THE UNACCEPTABLE CONTRACTUALIZATION OF EASTERN SUPERIORITIES IN MOST MAJOR ARMAMENTS INHERENT IN THE EAST'S PROPOSAL TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS ACROSS-THE-BOARD.

9. THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH MAKES NO ALLOWANCE FOR THE FACT THAT THE USSR, WITH LARGE FORCES NOT SUBJECT TO SIZE LIMITATIONS, IS ADJACENT TO THE REDUCTION AREA WHILE THE US IS 5,000 KILOMETERS AWAY AND THAT SUBSTANTIALLY ALL OF THE FORCES OF WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS LOCATED IN THE AREA WILL BE LIMITED WHILE SOVIET FORCES ADJACENT TO THE AREA WILL NOT BE.

10. THE EAST CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO DISCUSS ASSOCIATED MEASURES EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE AN AGREED TOPIC OF THE TALKS AND THE SUBJECT OF DETAILED WESTERN PROPOSALS.

11. IN DECEMBER 1975, THE WEST MADE BY FAR THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MOVE MADE BY EITHER SIDE SINCE THE OUTSET OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN IT OFFERED, INTER ALIA, TO REDUCE AND LIMIT AT RESIDUAL LEVELS SELECTED US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS.

12. THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 1976 PROPOSAL WAS CERTAINLY NOT A MOVE OF COMMENSURATE SIGNIFICANCE, BUT RATHER LEAVES UNCHANGED THE OUTCOME INITIALLY PROPOSED BY THE EAST.

13. THE EAST SHOULD DROP ITS UNREALISTIC AND INEQUITABLE INSISTENCE ON TREATING ALL PARTICIPANTS IDENTICALLY AND SHOULD INSTEAD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS WHICH OFFER AN EQUITABLE BASIS FOR AGREEMENT. RESOR

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